(a) whether the resource mobilization in respect of executing four railway projects namely Bogibeel bridge project, gauge conversion of Rangia-Murkongselek, Azra-Byrnihat new line and Dimapur-Kohima new line in the North East Region cleared by Union Cabinet for execution as National Project;

(b) if so, the details of the decision by the Union Cabinet in this regard and status of its execution;

(c) the reason for inordinate delay in execution of the said projects; and

(d) by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) It has been decided to implement the mentioned four projects as National Projects. The projects are to be funded through normal Gross Budgetary Support of Railways to the extent of 25% and balance 75% as additionality to be provided by Ministry of Finance. A proposal for creation of Non Lapsable Rail Development Fund has been initiated.

(c) and (d) There has been some delay in execution of Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge due to various reasons including fund constraints, delay in finalization of bridge sub-structure contract. Likely dates of completion fixed are as under:-

Name of the project	Date of Completion
Bogibeel Bridge	March 2012
Rangia-Murkongselek	March 2012
Azra-Byrnihat	2014-15
Dimapur-Kohima	2014-15

Terrorist activities on railways

902. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have become a soft target for terrorists, naxalites and other disruptive forces causing loss of innocent lives and loss of properties;

(b) the number of bomb blast incidents taken place in Railways during the last three years and how many persons were killed therein;

(c) the steps taken by Railways to strengthen and modernize arrangements; and

(d) the number of vacancies in various ranks lying in Railway Protection Special Force and steps taken to fill them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of bomb blasts incidents took place in Railways (in trains & Railway premises) and number of persons killed in these incidents during the last three years *i.e.* 2005, 2006 and 2007 and 2008 (upto September) are as under:-

Years	Number of Bomb blasts reported	Number of persons killed
2005	20	09
2006	45	212
2007	38	75
2008 (upto Sept.)	20	08

(c) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention, registration and investigation of IPC crimes like terrorist attacks, murder, dacoity, robbery etc. on Railways is the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments concerned which they discharge through their Government Railway Police (GRP). However, Railway is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on Railways by deploying Railway Protection Force staff to escort trains for the security of passengers. The following preventive measures are being taken by Railways to prevent terrorist attacks in trains:-

1. Close liaison is maintained with State Police and Government Railway Police for taking suitable preventive measures in vulnerable sections of affected States to avert incidents of terrorist attacks.
2. Periodical meetings with State Administrations of affected States and police authorities are being regularly held by Railway Administration to formulate effective joint strategy to combat the problem of terrorist attack over Railway system.
3. Sharing of intelligence between Railway Protection Force, Government Railway Police and Intelligence Bureau of affected States have been given priority to combat terrorist attacks on Railways.
4. Sensitive and important Railway stations and trains have been identified and deployment of RPF personnel for access control and escorting in affected sections have been intensified.
5. Sniffer dogs where available are utilized to check explosive devices at sensitive and important stations and trains.
6. Electronic gadgets like CCTV, Door Frame Metal Detectors etc. have been installed at all important and sensitive Railway stations. Hand Held Metal Detectors have also been provided to RPF personnel for frisking of passengers. Procurement of more modern security gadgets for installation at sensitive and important Railway stations are being done on priority.
7. An Integrated Security system is being implemented over all stations (including sub-urban stations) of Metro cities of Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai and other vulnerable / sensitive stations of Indian Railways. This system comprises of the following broad areas:-
   (a) CCTV System.
   (b) Access control.
   (c) Personal and baggage screening system.
   (d) Explosive detection and disposal system.
   (e) Door Frame Metal Detectors Hand Held Metal Detectors and Walkie Talkies are being utilized at stations for surveillance.

8. A committee was constituted by the Board for preparing the Composite Security Plan for the Railways. This committee comprised of officers from Railways, RPF, IB, CISF, Delhi Police, SPG. The committee has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Board.

(d) At present, 51 posts of Inspector, 273 posts of Sub-Inspector, 268 posts of Assistant Sub-Inspector, 1233 posts of Head Constable, 37 posts of Artisan and 256 posts of Followers are lying vacant in Railway Protection Special Force. The vacancy includes 150 RPSF staff who are on deputation outside RPSF.

So far as steps taken to fill-up the existing vacancies is concerned, it is stated that while the recruitment for filling-up the vacancy of Artisan and Ancillary staff of RPSF also, the recruitment process by Zonal Railways is underway and recruitment process for filling up the vacancy of Sub-Inspector against 131 vacancies under direct recruitment quota is also underway. As regards, filling up the vacancies against the promotional posts of Head Constable, Assistant Sub-Inspector, Sub-Inspector and Inspector is concerned, efforts are being made to promote the staff in the lower rank to higher rank adhoc, even through in number of cases they have not completed requisite length of service for being promoted on regular basis.

Pathankot-Jogindernagar rail link

903. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rail link between Pathankot-Jogindernagar and its connectivity with Bhanpalli-Barmana-Manali is under consideration;

(b) if so, whether it would later on be extended from Manali to Leh and Ladakh; and

(c) if so, whether a technical survey has commenced and whether this project is likely to be included in the Twelfth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) A Reconnaissance Engineering-cum-Traffic survey for construction of a new line from Bilaspur to Leh (via Kullu and Manali) with connectivity to Jogindernagar has been taken up.

(c) A decision on the inclusion of the project in the Plan proposals would be feasible based on the results of the survey, once the survey is completed and survey report finalized.

Permission of cooking gas cylinders to vendors at platforms

†904. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arrangements provided by IRCTC is running smoothly and items provided by it are in conformity with prescribed price standard;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.